

TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

2. GENERAL PAVLOVSKIY, COMMANDER OF SOVIET GROUND FORCES, AND TWELVE OTHER SOVIET GENERALS HAVE BEEN AT KABUL SINCE AUGUST 17 UNDER VERY TIGHT SECRECY AND HEAVY SECURITY PROTECTION. TRUSTED AFGHAN OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE SOVIET MISSIONS HERE FOR "FACT-FINDING" PURPOSES. PRIME MINISTER AND ACTING DEFENSE MINISTER HAFIZULLAH AMIN HAS DIRECTED THAT LOWER-RANKING OFFICIALS OF THE DEFENSE MINISTRY ARE EMPOWERED TO SIGN ROUTINE AGREEMENTS WITH THE VISITING SOVIET TEAM.

3. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY WOULD PREFER TO AWAIT FURTHER INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION AND EVALUATION BEFORE SPECULATING TOO MUCH ABOUT THE PRIMARY MISSION OF THE SOVIET TEAM. HOWEVER, THE SPECIAL AND SENIOR MILITARY RESPONSIBILITY OF ITS LEADER, THE ALREADY LENGTHY DURATION OF THE VISIT, AND THE FACT THAT SEVERAL NUTS-AND-BOLTS-TYPE AGREEMENTS ARE APPARENTLY BEING "NEGOTIATED," SUGGEST THAT ONE POSSIBLE REASON FOR PAVLOVSKIY'S PRESENCE HERE COULD BE THAT THE USSR IS LAYING THE DETAILED CONTINGENCY GROUNDWORK FOR THE FUTURE INTERVENTION OF SOVIET FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN, SHOULD MOSCOW EVENTUALLY DECIDE THAT STEP IS NECESSARY. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS MORE VIABLE THAT PAVLOVSKIY IS HERE PRINCIPALLY TO PROVIDE EXPERT, TOP-LEVEL GUIDANCE ON COUNTER-INSURGENCY OPERATIONS IN THE AFGHAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. AMSTUTZ

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 SUBJECT: (S) PAVLOVSKY VISION TO KGB

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1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT)

3. GENERAL PAVLOVSKIY, COMMANDER OF SOVIET GROUND FORCES, AND TWELVE OTHER SOVIET GENERALS WERE DEEN AT KABUL SINCE ABOUT 17 UNDER VERY TIGHT SECURITY AND HEAVY SECURITY PROTECTION. TRUSTED AFGHAN OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE SOVIET MISSION IS HERE FOR "FACT-FINDING" PURPOSES. PRIME MINISTER AND ACTING DEFENSE MINISTER HAFIZULLAH AMIN HAS DIRECTED THAT LOWER-RANKING OFFICIALS OF THE DEFENSE MINISTRY ARE AUTHORIZED TO SIGN ROUTINE AGREEMENTS WITH THE VISITING SOVIET TEAM.

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